



BEACON



SPOTLIGHT
AWARD

WINNER
BEST PRACTICE
ACTIVITIES



City of Indio

Sustainability Best Practice Activities

City of Indio

California communities are leading the fight against climate change. From small projects to large-scale programs, cities and counties are making great strides to create healthy, sustainable and economically prosperous communities. Participants in ILG's Beacon Program serve as leaders in this effort, making measureable contributions to reducing energy and greenhouse gas emissions, and sharing their sustainability best practices.

This document represents a collection of activities your agency has completed in 10 areas of sustainability. While local governments have a wide range of choices available to address climate change, these activities represent the unique opportunities and values in your community. These voluntary actions are essential to achieving California's goals to save energy, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and create more sustainable communities.

SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Areas of Accomplishment		SILVER LEVEL	GOLD LEVEL	PLATINUM LEVEL
	Agency GHG Reductions			
	Community GHG Reductions			2019 (26%)
	Agency Energy Savings	2019 (6%)		
	Natural Gas Savings			
	Sustainability Best Practice Activities	2015	2017	2020
	Beacon Vanguard Award			

Cities and counties throughout the Golden State should be proud of the accomplishments made through the hard work, innovation and collective community action. The Institute for Local Government applauds your achievements and thanks you for your continued participation in the Beacon Program.

The Beacon Program is sponsored by the Institute for Local Government and the Statewide Energy Efficiency Collaborative (SEEC). SEEC is an alliance between three statewide non-profit organizations and California's four Investor-Owned Utilities. The Beacon Program is funded by California utility ratepayers and administered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.



Energy Efficiency and Conservation Activities

Silver

1. Imperial Irrigation District (IDD), the local energy provider, offers a light bulb replacement event. The city partnered with IDD to staff a booth to educate on environmental programs and give away free reusable bags.

Gold

2. The City of Indio Water Authority partnered with Southern California Gas to distribute living wise educational materials to 6th grade students in the city. This program provides each student with retrofit kit for both water and energy savings. Students track and report how much resource savings are received after installation of the kit materials at their homes.
3. Indio replaced incandescent lights with more energy efficient lighting, such as compact fluorescents, overhead fluorescent lights or light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

Platinum

4. The city replaced a 10-ton condensing unit serving the city council chambers with a new high efficiency unit between 2014–2015.
5. Indio continues to convert older inefficient lighting with higher efficiency lighting throughout the city. The city has upgraded inefficient tree lighting with LED lights in 220 date palm trees.
6. Indio utilizes an Energy Management System for several facilities including City Hall, Corporate Yard, Police Stations, Senior Center, Teen Center and Fire Station. The system allows staff to monitor temperature in each room in each facility and monitor HVAC equipment including chillers. Staff can change temperature and HVAC settings from a remote location using the software.





Water & Wastewater Systems Activities

Silver

1. Beginning 2013, the Indio Water Authority provides a home retrofit kit that includes low flow shower heads, leak detection materials and aerators from Niagra to any water account holder in good standing.

Gold

2. The Indio Water Authority sources pumps are tested each year for efficiency. Beginning 2011, Indio Water Authority uses the American Water Works Association leak detection software to assess leaks in the water infrastructure. The Indio Water Authority also runs a program to replace old meters with “smart meters” that help detect leaks so that the residents or businesses can be informed when a leak occurs.
3. All Indio municipal parks have smart irrigation meters.

Platinum

4. In 2011, the Indio Water Authority adopted a Recycled Water Master Plan.
5. The Indio Water Authority runs residential and commercial water conservation programs which includes: turf reduction programs for residential and commercial meters, outdoor residential water audits, outdoor large commercial facility audits, and conservation based pricing (budget tiered rates).
6. The Indio Water Authority partners with the other water agencies in the region for the Coachella Valley Integrated Water Management Group. This group runs regional water conservation outreach efforts.
7. The Indio Water Authority continues to provide water conservation rebates and has expanded those rebates to include: low flow toilets (1.28 gallons or less per flush); \$150 rebate for each toilet (2 toilet limit), washing machines with water factor of 6 or less (\$150 rebate), irrigation upgrades for smart controllers and more efficient rotary heads and drip irrigation (\$750 for residential, \$1500 for commercial).





Green Building Activities

Silver

1. The city utilizes water efficient plants and trees. Facilities have water efficient landscapes and ET clocks. The city has now begun to focus on lighting and landscaping districts on city-owned property.

Gold

2. In 2015, Indio removed the sod from the palazzo lighting and landscaping district and replaced it with drought tolerant landscaping.
3. In 2015, Indio approved an ordinance to expedite the review/permit process for solar projects.

Platinum

4. In 2015, the city removed the sod from the palazzo lighting and landscaping district and replaced it with drought tolerant landscaping.
5. In 2015, Indio approved an ordinance to expedite the review/permit process for solar projects.
6. Indio enacts a construction and demolition debris recycling ordinance that requires 50 percent or more diversion of project waste.
7. The city has an ordinance (1501) that requires 50 percent diversion of waste from construction and demolition sites. However, the city currently requires 65 percent diversion as the new code requires and the ordinance is being updated to reflect this.





Waste Reduction and Recycling Activities

Silver

1. The city provides battery recycling bins for residents located at five municipal facilities throughout the city. The batteries are collected and recycled.

Gold

2. In conjunction with Burrtec, the local waste hauler, the city began a commercial food recycling program in 2012.
3. The City of Indio in conjunction with Burrtec, the local waste hauler, established commercial recycling rates in 2011 that are lower than waste hauling rates. Burrtec provides free voluntary commercial waste audits to commercial facilities.

Platinum

4. Indio has produced and began airing a television commercial promoting recycling in the city.
5. Indio has passed an ordinance banning single use plastic bags.
6. The city has applied for used oil grant monies from CalRecycle and held oil recycling events. In 2013, the city added waste tires to these collection events and the events are still ongoing.





Climate-friendly Purchasing Activities

Silver

1. In 2012, the Fleet Services Department switched to no spill systems by Femco for oil changes and replaced the oil drain plugs on all fleet vehicles to the no spill system. This system does not require the drain plug to be removed. A special hose is attached to the no spill system and oil is released directly into a collector reducing the possibility of oil spills or splashes.

Gold

2. In 2014, the city began to purchase Aquaphalt on a limited basis for fixing potholes in the city because of the environmental friendly aspects. Use of the product has slowly expanded.
3. The city purchased Rubberized Emulsion Aggregate Slurry to slurry roadways in 2016. This product uses rubber from waste tires to blend into the slurry diverting these tires from the waste stream. The slurry uses 78 waste tires per lane mile.

Platinum

4. Indio considers efficient transportation methods when purchasing goods and services, such as using local vendors and or locally produced goods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
5. The city continues to purchase and place waste and recycling receptacles and benches in parks and other public places from Greenday LLC that produces these products using recycled glass bottles and contain a minimum of 70 percent recycled material. This vendor is a local vendor.
6. The city partners with Riverside County Department of Waste Resources to promote green cleaning products. The County produces green cleaning product information and the city works with the county to promote the information to city residents. In addition, the city hosted a recycling workshop and a green cleaning workshop with Riverside County in 2017.





Renewable Energy and Low-Carbon Fuels Activities

Silver

1. The city has increased the number of PACE programs operating in the city by adding two more providers, totaling four approved PACE programs operating in the city.

Gold

2. Indio purchased and EV ARC™ from Envision Solar and this is a solar electric vehicle charging station. This solar charging station effectively takes the two electric vehicles the city has purchased completely off the grid and they run entirely on sunshine.
3. Indio installed a parking structure at city hall that is covered with solar panels. The PV system covers 82 percent of the electrical needs at city hall. The system size is 149 kW DC.

Platinum

4. Solar lighting is now used in some parks, including the new dog park and Hjorth Park. Solar irrigation controllers have been installed in Hjorth Park and the Santa Fe Landscape and Lighting District.
5. In 2020, the city used grant funding to install twenty BigBelly waste units in several areas throughout **the Ccity**. The units are 10% solar powered units that contain a waste unit with a compactor and a recycling unit. The Bigbellys have a sensor that detects when the unit is full and compacts the waste. When **it it** full and can no longer be compacted, it sends a signal to staff to be emptied. This reduces the need for staff to drive out to the units to see if they are full reducing greenhouse gases from the vehicles.
6. The city has partnered with GRID Alternatives since 2018 to bring solar energy projects to low income areas of the city at no cost to residents.





Efficient Transportation Activities

Silver

1. In 2012, 48 street lights were synced and timed to allow traffic to flow. Jefferson Street from Westward Ho to Indio Boulevard were synced in 2010, but in 2014 the traffic flow had increased and the signals were re-synced to allow current traffic patterns to flow better.

Gold

2. The City of Indio had a standard for traffic cameras to be installed that can detect bicyclist in the roadway. In 2012, the camera signals were recalibrated to incorporate the appropriate time for bicyclist and pedestrians to clear intersections.
3. The city has now purchased two electric vehicles from EcoCentre®, one pick-up and one van style vehicle. One vehicle is used by the parks department and the other by the environmental department to facilitate recycling and outreach at events.

Platinum

4. The city utilized a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant to prepare a Complete Streets Plan.
5. In 2020, the city utilized grant funding to complete over 300 feet of new sidewalk along Avenue 42. The sidewalk was needed to allow residential connectivity to the golf course and shopping areas.
6. In 2019, the city completed a Safe Routes to School Master Plan.





Land Use and Community Design Activities

Silver

1. In 2013, the city completed the housing element. Policy Action 1.5 explains the intended use of known and inventoried infill opportunities for very-low to low income housing including assistance the city may consider to support the development.

Gold

2. The city participates in regional planning efforts as a part of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), including regional transportation planning. Indio supports CVAG and is included in the regional transportation planning including combining and leveraging local transportation funding.
3. The city has a mobility element technical report to support the General Plan Update process. The report summarizes the existing transportation network and provides future conditions up to the year 2035. It includes pedestrian, public transportation and bicycle operations and plans improvements for each mode of transportation.

Platinum

4. The General Plan 2014 was adopted in 2019 and encourages "Infill First" as a key consideration.
5. The city adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2019.
6. Indio completed its first Greenhouse Gas inventory in 2010 and updated it for the year 2016 to identify trends and best options to further reduce GHG emissions.





Open Space and Offsetting Carbon Emission Activities

Silver

1. In 2012, the city completed Hjorth Park. This new park has recycling and water containers made from recycled materials. The benches at the park are also made from recycled materials and park lights are solar.

Gold

2. The city is a Tree City. Every year new trees are planted at the Annual Arbor Day event.
3. At the 2016 Arbor Day event, the city planted 19 trees in South Jackson soccer park that will provide shade to the participants and their families.

Platinum

4. Increase number, type and accessibility of parks and other recreational opportunities in the community, including promoting associated public health benefits.
5. In January 2017, Indio opened the first city dog park with solar lights. The trash/recycling receptacles and benches made from 70 percent recycled materials.
6. The city utilized funding from the California Urban Rivers Grant Program to install a rain garden and tree planting project at three outfalls in a local neighborhood retention basin to capture and reuse urban runoff.





Promoting Community and Individual Action Activities

Silver

1. In 2015, the city issued the first environmental programs newsletter which included articles on recycling, special waste collection events and the plastic bag ban.

Gold

2. The city created a Sustainability Commission in 2014.
3. Indio collaborates with schools to educate students about opportunities to be more energy efficient and to reduce, re-use and recycle. The city worked with five elementary schools to bring the EcoHero program to the schools. The EcoHero works with music to teach recycling and sustainability to students in a 90 minute assembly.

Platinum

4. Indio participates in the CoolCalifornia Challenge, which challenges local agencies to engage residents in taking action to reduce household energy and vehicle miles traveled. The City of Indio participated in the CoolCalifornia Challenge in partnership with the Indio High School Environmental Club. The city and high school did not win the challenge, but earned enough money to purchase a state of the art Soofa Solar Bench for the Indio High School campus.
5. Indio purchased solar panels and a solar generator for our outreach events to educate about renewable energy as well as reduce the amount of printed material needed at the community events.
6. Indio hosts sustainability collection events where e-Waste can be dropped off. City also uses a grant from CalRecycle to hold household hazardous waste collection events.
7. Indio holds a compost exchange at the sustainability collection events where people can bring in food waste and the city will exchange it for a reusable bucket of organic compost and a planting guide. The food waste is taken to a local composting facility.





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